

employer of the Defendant either during the time the parties resided together or at a later time if known to the Plaintiff; (4) the names and addresses of those relatives known to be close to the Defendant; and (5) any other information which could furnish a fruitful basis for further inquiry by one truly bent on learning the present whereabouts of the Defendant. From such basic information, the Plaintiff should then detail for the Court the particular efforts which have been made in the effort to ascertain the Defendant's present address.

Bearstop v. Bearstop, 377 A.2d 405, 408 (D.C. 1977).

In the case at hand, the Court finds that Plaintiff has performed a diligent search for Defendant Cook, despite having very little information on his whereabouts. According to her Motion, Plaintiff has never had any contact with Defendant Cook. Plaintiff thus does not know Defendant Cook's last known home address, current phone number, place of employment, or any of his family members. Plaintiff also called 411, the list of prisons and jails in the District, as well as several branches of the military. None of these efforts revealed the whereabouts of Defendant Cook.

Based on the foregoing, the Court finds that Plaintiff has made diligent efforts to locate Defendant Cook. The Court next considers Plaintiff's request for service by posting, rather than publication. Pursuant to the Rules Governing Domestic Relations Proceedings, Rule 4(f), the Court may authorize service by posting notice in the Clerk's Office of the Family Court for a period of twenty-one (21) days if the cost of publication would impose a substantial financial hardship. *See* D.C. CODE § 13-340(a). In her Motion, Plaintiff indicated that Plaintiff filed this case without paying any fees (*In Forma Pauperis*); thus, the Court finds that publication would pose a financial hardship, and authorizes service by posting of the below notice for a period of twenty-one (21) days in the Clerk's Office, and, given the Coronavirus pandemic, on the Court's website.

The Court further provides notice that if Defendant Cook fails to file a responsive pleading within the time allowed after he has been served or to appear at the hearing, the Court may enter a default and convert the next hearing into a default/*ex parte* hearing to take testimony from Plaintiff and proceed to final judgment without Defendant Cook's participation or further proceedings.

WHEREFORE, it is on this 22nd day of November, 2021, hereby

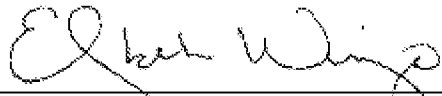
ORDERED, that Plaintiff's *Motion to Serve by Publication or Posting* on Defendant Cook is **GRANTED**. It is further

ORDERED, that prior to the next scheduled hearing, **Plaintiff must file an affidavit in compliance with the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act**. If she needs assistance with this task, she may contact the Family Court Self-Help Center at (202) 879-0096. It is further

ORDERED, that the attached notice shall be posted in the Clerk's Office of the Family Court of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia and on the Superior Court's website for a period of twenty-one (21) calendar days in order to serve Defendant Cook and notify him of the present action in which he is a party. It is further

ORDERED, that the parties shall appear for a remote hearing on **January 5, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.** in Courtroom 104. The Court is not holding any in person hearings at this time; therefore instructions to participate in the remote hearing are attached. Please contact JudgeHigashiChambers@dcsc.gov if you encounter any difficulties. If Defendant Cook does not file a responsive pleading with twenty-one (21) days after service pursuant to the Rules Governing Domestic Relations Proceedings, Rule 12(a), or appear at the hearing, the Court will enter default against Defendant and convert the January 5, 2022 hearing to a default/*ex parte* hearing to take testimony from Plaintiff and proceed to final judgment without Defendant Cook's participation.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


ELIZABETH C. WINGO
D.C. SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

Copies to:

Beatrice Hardy
nicolerfoster0519@gmail.com
Via Email
Plaintiff

Aaron Cook
Contact information unknown

Tiffany Hardy
Deceased

**SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
FAMILY DIVISION
DOMESTIC RELATIONS BRANCH**

BEATRICE HARDY,

Plaintiff,

v.

TIFFANY HARDY et. al.,

Defendant,

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**Case No. 2021 DRB 000618
Judge Elizabeth C. Wingo**

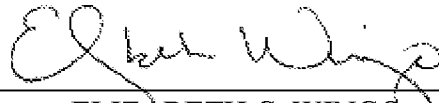
NOTICE OF CUSTODY PROCEEDING

AARON COOK, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT a complaint for third party custody has been filed in the above-captioned matter.

IF YOU WANT TO CHALLENGE THIS COMPLAINT, you must file a written objection with the Court within 21 days, and appear for the status hearing scheduled for January 5, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 104. The hearing will be conducted remotely. Instructions to participate are listed below, or may be obtained by contacting JudgeHigashiChambers@dcsc.gov. If you do not file a written objection within 21 days or appear at the hearing, default may be entered against you and the status hearing may be converted to a default/ex parte proof hearing, and judgment entered without further proceedings. Your objection should be emailed to FamilyCourtCIC@dcsc.gov, and directed to the Domestic Relations Branch Clerk, Family Court, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 500 Indiana Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001.

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO CHALLENGE THIS COMPLAINT, you may consent to the relief sought prior to the status hearing scheduled for January 5, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 104. For more information on how to file a Consent Answer, please contact the Family Court Self-Help Center by telephone number (202) 879-0096.

FAILURE TO RESPOND IN THIS MATTER MAY RESULT IN THE ENTRANCE OF A PERMANENT CUSTODY ORDER WITHOUT YOUR PARTICIPATION.


ELIZABETH C. WINGO
D.C. SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN A REMOTE HEARING:

The Court prefers participation by video and below are two options to attend by video. If a participant does not have a device that allows for video participation, participating by telephone is acceptable, and there is one option to do so below. **Should you encounter any difficulties, please email JudgeHigashiChambers@dscs.gov.**

****When you log in to the remote courtroom, there may already be a hearing in progress. Please wait for the courtroom clerk to address you and mute your video/phone whenever you are not speaking.****

To access the remote courtroom by computer (two methods):

- 1) Open Web Browser in Google Chrome and copy and paste following address:

<https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb104>

OR

- 2) Open Web Browser in Google Chrome and copy and paste following address:

<https://dccourts.webex.com>. Select JOIN, enter ACCESS CODE: **129 494 4503**.

To access the remote courtroom by smart phone or tablet:

Go to App Store, Download WebEx App (Cisco WebEx Meetings), Select Join Meeting, Enter URL: <https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb104>, enter your name and e-mail.

To access the remote courtroom by phone, no video:

Call 1 (844) 992-4726, enter Access Code: **129 494 4503#**, hit # again to enter session.